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THE OBJECTIVES OF SOVIET CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
UNDER THE FIFTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The current Five-Year Plan (1951 - 1955) envisages an approximate increase of 70% in industrial production by 1955, as compared with that of 1950. The production of agricultural and consumer goods is also to be increased to augment the national income of the USSR, the welfare of the people, etc.

Soviet science has reached unprecedented heights. The party and government are engaged in building a huge network of scientific-research institutes, among which are many chemical institutes. Broad preparation of scientific cadres has been provided for. The number of scientific-research institutes, laboratories, and other scientific establishments has been increased from 1,560 in 1939 to 2,900 at the beginning of 1952. During this period, the number of scientific workers has almost doubled. Over the last 5 years, the Soviet government has spent 47.2 billion rubles for the requirements of science.

The Academy of Sciences USSR has become a genuine world center of science. Under government supervision, the academy and its scientific establishments have grown to gigantic proportions. The budget for the academy, in comparison with the prerevolutionary budget, has increased almost 700 times, and the number of scientific workers has increased 60 times. The number of books and journals published by the Academy of Sciences has also increased by almost 25 times.

Under the new Five-Year Plan, (as compared with the preceding Five-Year Plan), the directives of the 19th Congress of the VKP(b) look forward to approximately doubling the scientific preparation of cadres. These aims are to be achieved by postgraduate studies [aspirantships] at higher educational institutions and scientific-research institutes.

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The party, government, and Stalin have always given much attention to chemical industry, chemical science, and the preparation of highly-qualified cadres of chemists. The chemical potential of Russia was ignored until the Soviets assumed control. In 1933, Stalin announced that the USSR had a modern chemical industry.

The 17th Congress of the VKP(b), in 1934, aimed at the wide "chemization" of all branches of the people's economy, and the strengthening of the USSR's defensive capabilities. During the Second Five-Year Plan, there were great achievements in the chemical industry, especially in the petroleum, coal, and schistose industries; in ferrous metallurgy and nonferrous metals; in fertilizers; the nitrogen industry; and in synthetic rubber, plastics, and artificial fibers. In the Third Five-Year Plan -- the "chemical" Five-Year Plan -- and in the Fourth Five-Year Plan, chemical industry and science reached even greater heights. At the end of 1950, chemical industry exceeded the pre-war level of production by 1.8 times; in nitrogen fertilizers, by 2.2 times; in potassium fertilizers, by 1.4 times; and in phosphates, by 1.9 times. Also the pre-war production levels of other branches of chemical industry were exceeded. This refers to soda, synthetic rubber, plastics, etc.

Geologists and chemists have worked together to discover and open to exploitation many new petroleum fields. S. V. Lebedev's outstanding work has become the basis for the growth and development of the industry of synthetic rubber, so necessary for the people's economy. The government has utilized his achievements to construct a new branch of industry.

In the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the 19th Congress of the VKP(b) looks to the greatest increase in the chemical industry. By 1955 (in comparison with 1950), the most important productions will show increases approximating the following percentages: synthetic rubber, 82%; calcined soda, 84%; caustic soda, 79%; and inorganic fertilizers, 88%.

The 19th Congress of the VKP(b) assigned the scientists the task of developing the production of synthetic rubber from petroleum gases by whatever means available. They were also given the job of increasing the production of plastics, dyes, and raw materials for rayon, and of developing the production of synthetic materials which will serve as substitutes for nonferrous metals. In addition, the congress stipulated increase in productive capacities for ammonia, sulfuric acid, synthetic rubber, synthetic alcohol, soda, and mineral fertilizers (particularly in the granular form) and set forth requirements for augmenting the production of chemical agents for combating the blights of agricultural plants.

It has also been planned to fill in the gap apparent in the construction of inorganic fertilizer plants, an action which will aid the production of inorganic fertilizers in the ensuing years. The directives of the congress require wide application of oxygen in the technological processes of ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, in the production of gas from coal, and in the cellulose and cement industries.

Soviet chemists will fulfill the tasks set for them by the Five-Year Plan. The results of 1951 and the economic achievements of the current year (1952) show that the Soviet people have already had great success in fulfilling the requirements of the new Five-Year Plan.

The chemical industry is now equipped with perfect technology. It has qualified cadres of workers and does not suffer from a lack of raw materials or other materials. The following tasks lie ahead of us: (1) to remove work deficiencies resolutely through a wide application of socialist competition and thus stimulate the greatest increase in labor productivity; and (2) to maintain a regime of economy and so bring to light unused reserves. To carry out these tasks successfully, creative cooperation is necessary.

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Science has a vital role in the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan. The chemists must make efficient use of fuel resources -- coal, peat, and schist -- by utilizing these materials to the fullest extent from the standpoint of chemical production. Such raw materials should be burned only after gas, tar, and other substances have been obtained from them. D. I. Mendeleev's idea of the complete chemical utilization of petroleum as a raw material must be realized to the end that alcohols, rubber, dyes, and other necessary products can be derived from it. Industry has posed for the chemists an important problem--the creation of superhard, superstable (to chemical reactions) materials with given properties, i.e., of mechanically strong plastics, which could replace costly metals.

G. M. Malenkov, in the report of the Central Committee to the 19th Congress of the VKP(b) dwelt on a number of deficiencies and perversions in various scientific fields which the committee had revealed. He pointed out that in many branches of science, the monopoly of individual groups of scientists has not yet been entirely eradicated. That these men shut themselves off from criticism and attempt to resolve scientific questions administratively. He added that not a single branch of science can develop successfully in the mouldy atmosphere of mutual praise and concealment of errors. He also declared that the maintenance of this monopoly of individual groups of scientists will inevitably breed scientific decay and stagnation.

The congress demanded that Soviet scientists take the lead in world science. Even though Soviet scientists have already gone beyond the scientists of capitalistic countries in a number of branches, nevertheless, capitalism must be outstripped in all branches of science.

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